

should be treated as slaves.¹
Not until 1288 was a law
passed
at Florence forbidding the
sale of serfs away from the
land.

Such a law was passed at
Bologna in 1256, and renewed
in 1283.

Such laws seem to have been
democratic measures to
lessen the
power of nobles in the rural
districts.² A man who made a
slave

woman a mother must pay
damages to her owner. In a
con-

tract of 1392 a man in such
a case confesses a debt, as
for

money borrowed. By a
statute of Lucca, in 1539, a
man so
offending must buy the
woman at twice her cost and
pay to the
state a fine of one hundred
lire. By a statute of
Florence,

1415, it was affirmed that the
quality of Christian would not
exempt from slavery.³ In a
contract of sale of a woman
at

Venice, 1450, it is specified
that the seller sells *purum*
et

merum dominium^ The
Italian cities continued to
protect the
slave trade until the middle
of the sixteenth century.⁵ The
Venetians and Genoese
carried on the trade actively,
except in
times of great public or
general calamity, when they
suspended

it to appease the wrath of
God.⁶ The intimate
connection of
the great commercial
republics with the Orient, and

hatred for
 Greek heretics, are charged
 with causing them to keep up
 the
 trade.⁷ Conjugal life at
 Venice was undermined by
 the desire
 for variety in pleasure, and by
 the easy opportunity to get
 beau-
 tiful slaves in the markets
 of the Orient. From the
 most
 ancient times laws, as fierce
 as inefficacious, punished
 with
 death merchants who
 traded in men, but the trade
 did not
 cease until the end of the
 sixteenth century. The
 national
 archives contain contracts
 from the twelfth century to
 the six-
 teenth about slaves. Priests
 were the notaries in these
 contracts,
 in spite of the state, the
 popes, and the councils.
 Slaves were
 brought from every country in
 the Levant, including
 Circassian
 and Georgian girls of twelve
 and fourteen. Slaves passed
 entirely under the will of the
 buyer.⁸ Biot⁹ finds evidence of
 slavery in Italy until the
 middle of the seventeenth
 century.

¹ Libri, *Sciences Mathématiques en Italic*, II, 509.

² *Ibid.*, 510. * *Ibid.*, 513.

⁶ Cibrario, *Econ. PoliL*, III, 274.

³ *Ibid.*, 515. ⁵ *Ibid.*, 511.

⁷ Biot, *AboL de FEsdav.*, 426.

⁸ Molmenti, *Venezia netta Vita Privata*, I, 280.

⁹ *AboL de PMsclav.*, 441.